



Reflection: Crafting works of Ministry

Each of us has travelled along our personal and professional pathways, bringing us to where we are today, involved in various works of mercy, core to our ministry. Most likely, as part of your Induction, you heard stories of the founders, the women and men of faith who responded to the needs of people around them and welcomed others who felt called to assist them. Within Mercy Ministry Companions, we continue the mission of Jesus in the tradition of these founders. We do so through our engagement alongside our colleagues in the works of mercy which are core to our healthcare, education and community service ministries.

Pope Francis (2016 a) reminds us that our hearts can craft these works of mercy “*in a thousand different ways*” and that “*each one takes on a different form.*” They “*are not theoretical ideas, but concrete testimonies. They oblige us to roll up our sleeves to alleviate suffering.*” (Pope Francis, 2016 b) As disciples of Jesus, we are women and men of faith, called to roll up our sleeves today and tomorrow and in the days to come, often not knowing what situations might arise or what the outcome of our efforts might be.

The life of Mary, Mother of Jesus, has many ‘faithful discipleship moments’ which we can ponder as, on August 15, we celebrate the feast of her Assumption. Within your busy day, find some space and time to ponder this *Litany of Mary*, written by Joyce Rupp:

- ***Mary of the Annunciation***, teach us how to respond with faith to divine mystery.
- ***Mary at Elizabeth’s door***, teach us to be generous with our capacity to care.
- ***Mary giving birth to Jesus***, teach us to look for your Son in our adverse conditions.
- ***Mary fleeing into the strange land of Egypt***, teach us to welcome strangers from foreign lands.
- ***Mary at the Presentation of Jesus***, teach us how to accept the conditions for loving fully.
- ***Mary in the temple where young Jesus preached***, teach us to be diligent in finding our spiritual treasure.
- ***Mary at home in Nazareth with your family***, teach us to value the gift of our relationships.
- ***Mary at the wedding feast of Cana***, teach us how to ask humbly for what is needed.
- ***Mary meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary***, teach us to meet our own pain with compassion.
- ***Mary standing beneath the Cross***, teach us to be present to the suffering ones of our world.
- ***Mary receiving your crucified Son in your arms***, teach us that we too, can embrace our losses with courage.
- ***Mary at the tomb***, teach us not to be afraid to enter into our grief.
- ***Mary in the Upper room with the disciples***, teach us the strength of community and the power of prayer.

Mary, mother of Jesus, we look to your life of faith and draw inspiration from you. The witness of your life readies us to be people of immeasurable love, to give of ourselves wholeheartedly to a life of ongoing transformation. How grateful we are to have you as an exemplar of how to strengthen faith and deepen union with the Holy One. [Joyce Rupp, 2017, *Prayer Seeds*, Sorin Books, Notre Dame IN, p. 107.] Pope Francis, 2016 a, *Misericordia et Misera* Strathfield: St Pauls Publications, p. 36. Pope Francis, 2016 b, *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Jubilee audience*, St Peters Square, Thursday June 30.

Annette Schneider RSM

MMC Trustee Directors visit NSW

In June, the Trustee Directors (TDs) spent two days (27-28 June) visiting Mercy Services in Newcastle, West Wallsend and Singleton, NSW. The group heard from guest speakers, visited local services and met with Sisters and staff.

Guest speakers included:

- Sally Neaves, Integral Ecology Animator, Mission Ministry Resource Coordinator at ISMAPNG, who presented on Creation as a gift of God; and embedding integral ecology into the life of Mercy Ministry Companions.
- Matthew Clancy, Chair of Mercy Community Services Australia Limited (MCSAL), who spoke about MCSAL's upcoming strategic priorities.

MMC TDs also:

- Travelled to the Mercy Services offices at West Wallsend for a morning tea with staff, followed by a trip to Singleton for a tour of the Singleton Convent Grounds, Chapel and Mercy Services Aged Care Facility.
- Joined the Mercy Services Board Meeting at the Tighes Hill office, for a short ritual to recognise the contribution of the outgoing Mercy Services Board. This was followed by dinner with the outgoing Directors. On July 1, 2022, the Board of MCSAL assumed responsibility for the governance of Mercy Services.



Mercy Services Thanksgiving Ritual



Visiting Singleton Convent Grounds





Morning tea Morning tea with Sr Berice Livermore RSM and Margaret Bounader Chair MMC



Mercy Health Team Member Spotlight – Claire Conlon

The Lived Experience Workforce offer a unique perspective and understanding of the challenges people with disabilities face in healthcare, the workplace and wider community, having lived through these challenges themselves. At Mercy Health, this Workforce supports patients by drawing on their own life experience to improve health outcomes.

For three decades, Claire Conlon, Mercy Mental Health Consumer Consultant, worked in various roles in community health, aged care, disability and mental health. Then, in early 2021, Claire found herself on the other side of the system, as a patient in the mental health inpatient service at Werribee Mercy Hospital.

“I was pretty unwell,” Claire says, “but our Lived Experience workers are walking billboards of hope. You are more likely to engage with someone who has experienced what you are going through,” she says.

Later that year, Claire returned to Werribee Mercy Hospital to start a new job as a Consumer Consultant. Claire now works alongside a Carer Consultant and a small team of peer workers, who form the Mercy Mental Health Lived Experience Workforce.

Claire says the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System showed just how much has to change. “But I have hope,” she says. “We need leaders to be allies and to listen to what consumers are saying. That is why we are here. We are doing everything possible so that people can be cared for in an environment that helps them heal.”

Critical needs met with commencement work

Mercy Health has welcomed the completion of the installation of the Emergency Department Short Stay Unit at Werribee Mercy Hospital.



With the temporary building craned onto the site in early July, the vital Short Stay Unit will increase hospital capacity by providing an additional 24 beds for non-critical, Emergency Department patients. In doing so, it will also ensure that limited beds in the Emergency Department remain available for those patients who need them most.

“The temporary unit highlights that we have the space available for an expansion,” says Professor Jason Payne, Health Services Chief Executive. “The State Government’s willingness to identify a short-term opportunity demonstrates that it understands the critical need for both expansion and investment in the Wyndham corridor.”

MMC look forward to seeing the continued progress of this vital new unit.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week 2022

This year, Mercy Health spaces around the country celebrated NAIDOC Week from 3-10 July.

Many Werribee Mercy Hospital patients and staff braved the cold on 7 July, for an Acknowledgment of Country. Following an introduction by Professor Jason Payne, Chief Executive Health Services, proud Bunurong woman Samantha Bennett, Werribee Mercy Hospital Aboriginal Women's and Children's Liaison, led a Welcome to Country in language.

Other celebrations throughout the week included two dozen staff joining an online weaving workshop led by Jo Pappas, Mercy Hospital for Women (MHW) Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer, a Kokatha/Mirning woman and expert weaver. MHW staff also attended a special Grand Round about the Baggarook Yurrongi Project, learning about culturally safe continuity of care for First Nations women.



Director Responsibilities and their Practical Implications

Congratulations to Trent Dean, CEO Mercy Connect, who was invited to speak at the Governance Institute of Australia's Not-For-Profit Forum held in Brisbane last month.

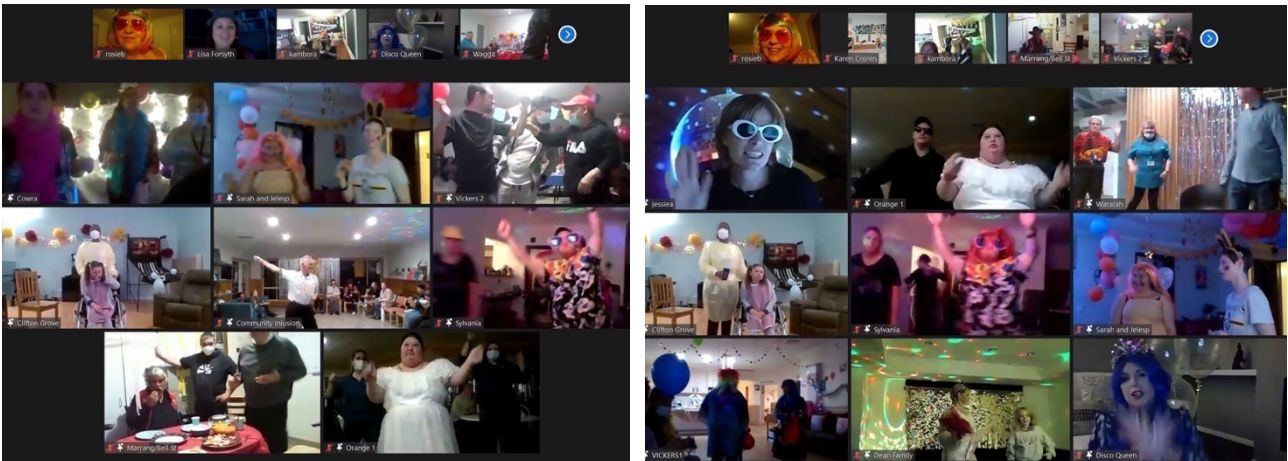
In a facilitated session titled 'Director Responsibilities and their Practical Implications' Trent, who joined via Zoom, and David Swain, Chief Executive Officer at Endeavour Foundation, discussed governance implications in the human services industry, director and executive responsibilities, the management of risk in the boardroom, and director behaviours that may help or hinder.



"I thoroughly enjoyed breaking out my trusty Zoom setup and engaging in robust and frank dialogue, and replying to great questions asked by those in attendance," said Trent.

Dancing virtually with our stars

In early July, MMC were delighted to hear of the success of Mercy Connect's Third Virtual Dinner Dance. The evening, themed 'Dancing with our Stars!' and celebrated over Zoom, was a wonderful opportunity for participants, staff and friends from across Albury Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Orange to connect and enjoy some great music. The winners of the annual Mercy Connect Values Awards were also announced. Thank you to the large number of people who contributed to this wonderful event.



Breaking of Ground in Henty

Construction has now begun on the \$2.4 million Avondale Place Respite Care Centre in Henty. The project, a four-bedroom respite home and four two-bedroom independent living units for people living with disability, will be run by Mercy Connect upon completion.



The sod turning ceremony, held in mid-June, marked the beginning of the construction phase of the project. A special 'Welcome to Country' was delivered by local Wiradjuri woman, Sue Green, with speeches given by Ben Hooper, Henty Respite Trust Chairperson, and Justin Clancy MP, Member for Albury.

Trent Dean, Mercy Connect CEO, said "It is a really great initiative and one that I hope gets mirrored around other smaller cities and towns across regional and rural areas."

The project is expected to be completed in November this year, with operations to commence in early 2023.

Emmanuel College celebrates 150 years of education

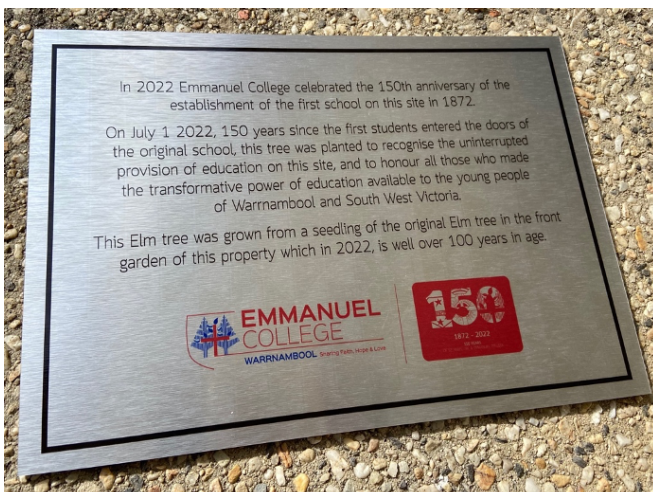
Throughout July, Emmanuel College Warrnambool, celebrated a very special milestone anniversary - 150 years of education on the site.

From humble beginnings

This remarkable legacy began with the arrival eight Sisters of Mercy in 1872, who travelled from Ireland to Warrnambool to provide a Catholic education for students of the district. These women, who won the support of the local community and overcame many obstacles, established a successful school that quickly gained an impressive reputation.

Today we celebrate

In honour of the anniversary, the College held a celebratory mass led by Bishop Paul Bird CSSR in the Emmanuel Centre and attended by 1,200 students, staff, current Sisters of Mercy, special guests, and families. A distinctive wooden Mercy cross was gifted to the College by the Sisters of Mercy and this was blessed by the Bishop during mass.



Further celebrations included the planting of a new elm tree on the property. The small seedling, grown from a seed of the original Elm tree in the school's front garden, will have a commemorative plaque installed at its base.

MMC would like to congratulate Emmanuel College and we look forward to celebrating many more years of education, faith and service with you.

A fresh face for our MMC Update

The MMC Update is having a makeover. Our next edition will find its way into your inbox in a new, interactive, email format. We will continue to share your exciting achievements and updates from across our ministries and we encourage you to share these with us by emailing mmc@mercyministrycompanions.org.au.

Save The Date...

We have a number of upcoming formation offerings for the remainder of 2022. Please see dates below and attached flyer for seminar overviews.

FRI 2 SEP 2022	<i>Registrations Closing Soon!</i> <i>Newly appointed Directors Induction</i> (Melbourne) Register at: https://www.trybooking.com/CBLWE
THURS 22 SEP 2022	<i>Embedding synodality in our contemporary Mercy organisational culture: governance, leadership and service</i> (via Zoom) Register at: https://www.trybooking.com/CBLWF
THURS 13 OCT 2022	<i>Hope in a time of pandemic: responding to COVID through a Mercy lens</i> (via Zoom) Register at: https://www.trybooking.com/CBLWI
TUES 15 NOV 2022	<i>Evaluating our impact in Mercy Ministry: exploring ways forward to ensure mission effectiveness</i> (via Zoom) Register at: https://www.trybooking.com/CBOMS



Mercy Ministry Companions

2022 Formation Offerings

Induction for new Board Directors within MMC

9:15AM – 3:00PM, Friday 2 September 2022

Face to face, Marist Centre, 1 Dawson Street, Brunswick, Victoria

This seminar provides an opportunity for recently appointed Board Directors to engage with their colleagues from across ministries within MMC. Topics include:

- ◆ Introduction to Mercy Ministry Companions, its ministries and people
- ◆ Governance of Catholic organizations and responsibilities of Ministerial PJPs in the Church
- ◆ Civil responsibilities of Directors within MMC
- ◆ Supporting Directors through ongoing formation for mission
- ◆ Current developments and priorities for MMC's Trustee Directors, including embedding synodality in relationships with Ministry Boards and senior leaders

The seminar will include opportunities for reflection, small group conversations, Q and A.

Presenters will include: Margaret Bounader (Chair MMC); Gabrielle McMullen (Trustee Director MMC); Anthony Loschiavo (Executive Officer MMC) and Annette Schneider rsm (Formation Coordinator MMC)

To Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBLWE>

There is no Registration fee.

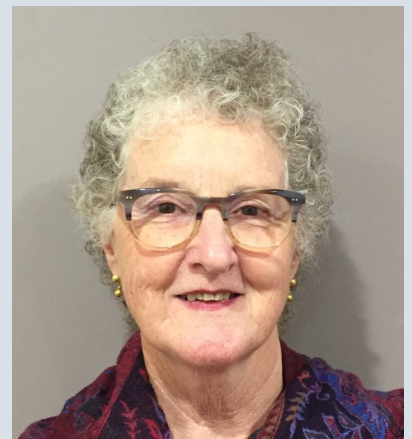
Embedding synodality in our contemporary Mercy organizational culture: governance, leadership and service

11:00AM—2:00PM AEST, Thursday 22 September 2022

Via Zoom

The seminar provides opportunities for Ministry Board Directors, CEOs, Principals, leadership teams, managers and mission leaders to engage with each other in a cross-ministry context as they explore:

- ◆ Leadership for ministry and mission
- ◆ Shaping a culture of synodality
- ◆ Leadership at the service of mission
- ◆ Embedding synodality in leadership practice (e.g. planning and setting priorities; working with staff and colleagues; employing staff; decision-making and accountability)
- ◆ Personal approaches to leadership and styles of leading



The seminar will include opportunities for prayer and reflection, small group conversations, Q and A.

Presenter: Anne Benjamin, Honorary Professor ACU. Anne will draw on a 2021 publication *Leadership in a synodal Church* which she co-authored with Charles Burford.

To Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBLWE>

There is no Registration fee.

Hope in a time of pandemic – responding to COVID through a Mercy lens

9:00AM—12:00PM ADST, Thursday 13 October 2022

Via Zoom

The seminar provides opportunities for Ministry Board Directors, CEOs, Principals, leadership teams, managers, mission leaders, clinicians and others providing professional services to engage with each other in a cross-ministry context as they explore:

- ◆ The challenges and opportunities arising from our experience of the pandemic (globally, regionally and locally)
- ◆ Our call to respond through a 'mercy lens'
- ◆ Insights emerging in light of reflection on our Mercy tradition and Catholic Social Teaching
- ◆ Being a source of hope for our colleagues and those we serve in our ministries
- ◆ The seminar will include opportunities for prayer and reflection, small group conversations, Q and A.

Presenter: Angela Reed rsm, Head Mercy Global Action, based at the UN in New York

To Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBLWI>

There is no Registration fee.



Evaluating our impact in Mercy ministry: exploring ways forward to ensure mission effectiveness

1:00—4:00PM AEDT, Tuesday 15 November 2022

Via Zoom

This seminar will be valuable for those in roles which hold responsibility for mission at a range of levels – Trustee Directors, Board Directors and mission sub-committees, CEOs/Principals and Leadership team members, especially mission, identity, faith and ethos Coordinators.



Jemima has experience in impact investing, measurement and philanthropy and consultancy with not-for-profit organizations. Based in Brisbane, she currently works with Mercy Global Action on a project to ensure the sustainability of the Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship program.

The seminar will explore principles underpinning effective evaluation, drawing on a 'theory of change' framework, and consider a range of tools and approaches which can be used to enhance mission effectiveness within Mercy ministry.

Presenter: Jemima Welsh, Women's Leadership Development Associate, Mercy Global Action

To Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBOMS>

There is no Registration fee.